—*Donna Lauria.* "I did shoot Donna, and I'm very sorry about doing it. She was known by some in the group, and so it actually wasn't random, although the public believed it was," Berkowitz said. He later added it was "very possible" Donna and her girlfriend Jody Valente were "followed that entire evening." He also said three other accomplices were at the scene—including Michael Carr". "I was with Michael," Berkowitz said. "The other two were in a tan car" (the auto spotted by Donna's father minutes before the shots were fired).

The tan car, I later determined, was a Ford—the same type of auto sighted at some other .44 scenes. My investigation found that it was a livery service car used by Gorman Johnson,* who was mentioned earlier in this story. He lived very near Berkowitz in Yonkers and was arrested with a loaded .44 Bulldog in June 1977. I also learned that Yonkers police detained Johnson when he tried to ditch that same vehicle in the Hudson River nine days before Stacy Moskowitz was slain.

—*Carl Denaro.* "A woman shot him. There were several of us there that night," Berkowitz said, adding that three of those "several" conspirators were women. The shooter is believed to be one of two prime suspects.

—*Joanne Lomino and Donna DeMasi.* "That was John Carr," Berkowitz said of the man whose likeness was accurately depicted in a police sketch drawn from a description provided by the two wounded vic-

tims. Berkowitz later acknowledged that "a Yonkers police officer who belonged to the group was also there and at a couple of other scenes, too."

It is virtually certain the Yonkers cop was Peter Shane,* a long-standing suspect who matched the second police sketch from the Lomino-DeMasi attack based on a description provided by a witness. Shane, who was referenced earlier in this book, quit the Yonkers police when my first conspiracy articles were published in 1979. He was friendly with the Carrs and with Berkowitz's longtime pal Howard Weiss, who was murdered that same year. "Howie was connected to the group, but he wasn't at any of the shootings," Berkowitz later told me.

— *Christine Freund.* "I believe there was a motive to this, but I don't know what it was," Berkowitz revealed, explaining that "at least five" conspirators were present that night. "It was different because they brought someone in from out of town to do it," he said of the triggerman.

Berkowitz later acknowledged "Manson II" was the shooter. He added, "There was another guy with him when he came to New York, and that person was also out there that night," and, "They did use a red car in this shooting." This red auto, which has now been traced to a close friend of Berkowitz, was observed by a witness at the scene.

Berkowitz also alleged it was "Manson II" who bragged about intimate details of Arlis Perry's mur-

der "at a meeting in a house in the Bronx. This guy had a photo of Arlis, and that's how I knew what she looked like," he explained. I later showed Berkowitz two pictures of Arlis. He identified the one that first sparked my interest—the photo that wasn't made public until 1981. This picture was taken in Bismarck not long before her death. It was the one in which she wasn't wearing eyeglasses.

Later, off camera, I asked Berkowitz if Bill Mentzer was "Manson II." "I can't talk about that," he answered. "But I will say that I heard this guy later got in some big trouble."

— *Virginia Voskerichian.* "A woman from Westchester did it," Berkowitz stated. "I was there, too, but it was her who wore that watch cap." Berkowitz didn't recall jogger Amy Johnson* or how he managed to move ahead of her. "The person who did the shooting was driving around a bit before it happened, so maybe she dropped me off," he offered. He also said he didn't know why the Voskerichian killing occurred when and where it did. "I wasn't told a lot of what was in their minds," he explained. There is one prime suspect in this murder.

— *Valentina Suriani and Alexander Esau.* "I did this one, and I'm very sorry about it," Berkowitz said. "There were several of us there that night." He also stated that reluctant witness Will Levine* was "essentially correct" when he reported that Berkowitz walked two blocks from the scene and handed the

gun to an accomplice, and that both left the area in cars driven by others.

—*Judy Placido and Sal Lupo.* "Michael Carr did that one," Berkowitz told me. "They had been watching that Elephas disco for awhile. They wanted to do something out there because it had some significance." At the very least, that "significance" was ritual in nature, as described earlier in this story.

—*Stacy Moslwwitz and Robert Violante.* "After I got the ticket, I tried to stop it from happening," Berkowitz said. "I went over to the park but they [his accomplices] wouldn't listen, so I drove off. I did return to the area a bit later because I figured I'd try once more to get them to call it off," he added, confirming all of Cäcilia Davis' account. "But I didn't get there in time. I heard the shots and went back to my car and left."

Berkowitz verified that the triggerman escaped in the infamous yellow VW. He later said the auto "belonged to the Carrs," an allegation confirmed by at least five witnesses, including two police officers. He also revealed it was the same vehicle the Cassaras saw him driving when he lived at their home in New Rochelle. "It was like a community car," he explained.

Berkowitz later supplied some major surprises about the Moskowitz attack. "The person who did it was a friend of John Carr's who came in from North Dakota," he alleged. "However, it wasn't him who actually drove the VW away from there. I guess he ducked down in the seat. But a woman drove it."

The sketch of the VW driver, drawn from the recollection of witness Alan Masters,* led me and everyone else to assume the person was a man in a wig. Not so, Berkowitz said. "It was a woman from Westchester and that was her own hair." He added cryptically: "If you think about it, it makes perfect sense that she was driving that car."

Indeed it did.

Berkowitz said that he spent his last days of freedom preparing for the police. "I knew the ticket would be checked. So several days before I got arrested, we rented a van and got rid of my furniture and other heavy things to make the place look like a madman lived in it." He said that he and three others accomplished the move. "One of them was the guy who did the Brooklyn shooting, another was that woman—and the third was Mike Carr."

Berkowitz also said he knew when the police were on the immediate horizon. "I was aware Sam Carr went to the authorities and so forth, so I knew they'd be coming very soon. It's not hard to see how I knew this—and so everything was arranged."

Berkowitz explained that he confessed to sole culpability for a simple reason: he knew he was guilty. "I did do two of the shootings—that's three deaths—and I played a role in the rest. So what's the difference if I said I did all of them? I knew I was going to jail for life no matter what, and I deserved to. Plus, I was sticking loyal to the others in the group."

But there was even more to the drama behind Berkowitz's capture. In 1997, two witnesses stated that cult members named John DiFrenza and "Richie" actually removed some "last-minute" odds and ends from Berkowitz's apartment on the very day of his arrest. One witness, who was DiFrenza's roommate, said DiFrenza returned that night with Berkowitz's mail and other items. "I told him to get that junk out of here," the witness reported.

When confronted with the witnesses' statements, Berkowitz confirmed the accounts. "Both Richie and John were there that last day. But John wasn't at any of the crime scenes," he said. However, he wouldn't comment on Richie's degree of guilt.

John DiFrenza was murdered in Yonkers in 1989. His death, which reportedly occurred during a sex ritual gone awry, apparently was not connected to the Son of Sam case. In late 1998, Richie—an admitted close friend of Berkowitz and the owner of a red car in 1977—was said to be seriously ill. He has refused to cooperate with the investigation.

The *Inside Edition* broadcasts, which were augmented by a front-page series in the *New York Daily News*, hurtled the story to the forefront again. Then, in 1996, the Yonkers Police Department quietly opened its own probe of the case. Its aims to determine if the alleged conspiracy was hatched in its jurisdiction, to learn if any related murders occurred

there and to discover if elements of the group were still active locally.

Also in 1996, the successful professional called "Mr. Real Estate," whom the prison informants singled out years before as the leader of the Westchester cult, was finally identified. This crucial door, which also led straight to the Process, was opened by the teenage artist the group attempted to recruit at Untermyer in 1976.

The cultists didn't know that this young man, whom I will call Billy, sketched several of their portraits after he returned home from his handful of excursions to the heavily wooded park. Besides knowing nicknames, Billy kept the drawings, which were uncannily precise. They enabled us to identify a number of members and were subsequently shown to Berkowitz, who validated the identifications. Among them were.

—A man Billy knew as "Pete," who later served time for a Westchester murder Pete, whose true first name was Pedro, was a close friend of Berkowitz's neighbor German Johnson,* who owned a 44 Bulldog and frequently drove the relevant tan Ford.

—A young woman Billy knew as "Marie" or "Maria" She was positively identified as Maria Cortina, the alias of Suzette Rodriguez, who was gunned down on a Westchester street soon after Berkowitz's arrest.

—A bearded man Billy described as "Ken from Australia, who was always with Marie" Significantly,

Ken—whose last name I am obligated to withhold for investigative reasons—was positively identified as a leading member of the Process. Among other established facts, Berkowitz called Ken "one of the elders and a recruiter for the Process," and official files proved Ken's Australian heritage. These corroborations were backed by a photo of Ken that matched Billy's sketch and placed a prominent. Process member in Untermyer Park with members of the Westchester cult just a month before the Son of Sam shootings began.

Billy's 1976 sketches isolated yet another individual. It was a stroke of luck the portrait existed because its subject seldom appeared at Untermyer His true name must be withheld for investigative reasons, but he was the man we now believe was the wealthy "Mr. Real Estate." However, fate intervened before authorities could interrogate him.

I spotted the tiny death notice in early 1996. He had succumbed to death by natural causes at the age of seventy-six—one of the few who didn't meet a bizarre or violent end I alerted the police, and within hours a detective was at the funeral home Posing as a mourner and with Billy's old drawing as a reference, the detective identified the deceased in his coffin.

The detective also noted that the rosary in "Mr. Real Estate's" hands was deliberately positioned so that the crucifix was inverted. He further observed

that the only flowers in the room were "black or deep purple roses" and that the standard holy picture mementos were replaced by cards imprinted with a Celtic cross—a cross which in this instance represented Druidism.

The police needed to take one more step—a first-person identification. It was accomplished when they brought Billy the artist to the funeral parlor. Billy, who also acted as a mourner, knelt at the coffin and verified that the deceased was indeed the man he'd sketched at Untermyer two decades earlier. "He didn't change much, and his features were so distinct it was easy to know it was him," Billy said. "At Untermyer they called him 'Zoltan,' or something like that."

Actually, the name was "Moloch." It was a cult name the dead man chose for himself—the title of an ancient deity who was worshiped by the sacrifice of children. But there was more to Moloch's singular role in the Son of Sam case, and it related to his interactions with the Process.

By 1997, we had accumulated much new data about the British cult's activities in the United States and its immersion in the .44 shootings. It is not possible to explore the depths of that investigation here, but I will list a few highlights. For example, an admitted former Process member named Linda Harrison came forward to say she saw Michael Carr at a 1970s Process meeting in Chicago. "It was definitely Michael," she said. "And knowing what I came to know about the Process' real